

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Statutory Review of the System for)	
Regulating Rates and Classes for)	Docket No. RM2017-3
Market Dominant Products)	

**COMMENTS FROM DEBORAH SZEREDY
A 40 YEAR POSTAL WORKER**

Pursuant to Order No. 3673, I would strongly hope my comments will be reviewed by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The Postal Service has worked hard and put most of its resources in building a network that reaches the people of America since 1970 when the Postal Reorganization Act became law.

Just before the PAEA went into effect in 2006 we reached most of our goals to better serve America. We are a very proud workforce. We were doing so well that in a lame duck session December of 2006 Congress by a voice vote passed the PAEA to have a watchdog placed over the USPS. However, many employees saw it as a way to start to privatize the USPS Public Postal Service piece by piece to the private sector. The recession hit in 2007 and the Postal Service was hit as well.

In fact, the Postal Regulatory Commission granted an exigency surcharge for first class mail of 2 cents bringing the stamp to 49 cents, metered by 2 cents, and pre-sort by 2.1 cents in 2014 through 2016.

Then in 2017 the Postal Regulatory Commission ruled that the Postal Service had reached its exigency limit and then ruled that the exigency surcharge would end,

and the first-class stamp should be reduced back to 47 cents. This was a loss of revenue for the USPS of over 2 billion a year. This really hurt the Postal Service. This was the first time in my lifetime I ever saw the first-class stamp reduced.

Mail volume dropped some after the first-class stamp was reduced back to 47 cents and we began to see the effects of consolidating mail processing sites on quality and prompt service. The USPS began cutting postal worker jobs instead of replacing retired workers failing to convert temporary workers to full-time workers causing short staffing everywhere.

The Postal Service in 2016 was in need of expanding and building upon their infrastructure. The consolidation of mail processing and the change to degrade the service standards has slowed down mail delivery and there has been a very big backlash on the communities, businesses and mailers across the country who have dealt with service delays. An example is how student applications to college were not reaching the time limit for submission. There were complaints of immigrant documentation not meeting deadlines that affected visas. Non-profits like a local church or newspaper could no longer depend on prompt services and were denied discounts so they gave up. The American people were being charged bill payment late fees and it affected their credit ratings, forcing customers to go to online bill paying, hurting mail volume.

I believe that the American people are tired of the long lines at the Postal Service. The USPS has continued to cut jobs which has caused postal workers to do the work of three postal workers. Postal Workers are tired too. Workers compensation has risen and could be caused by the effects of postal workers being overworked and getting injured due to unsafe working conditions when we have to utilize old unsafe equipment and vehicles.

The Service Standards in 2015 were only reduced because the USPS stated it was the only way they could continue to consolidate and close mail processing and meet some kind of standards, and so by 2015 the USPS cut mail processing in over 66 sites and again this adversely affected our service to the American people. The degraded service standard changes and consolidation of mail processing was a big mistake. It was a cut that went too deep that affected our service.

So here we are today to discuss changing the CAP to 2%. The USPS has much work to do to update and expand our capacity to meet productivity and provide more quality service standards to the American People. It can't happen without a true-up and provide the Postal Service revenue to make the Postal Service great again. Our equipment, buildings, trucks and infra-structure is old and needs to be improved. We need better staffing. A 2% CAP will not provide the service with what it needs, but I must say it can be a start.

Many mailers will comment about their costs and their needs to keep the CAP where it is. Postal Workers love our mailers as well as we love everyone in our communities. For- Profit Mailers and Non-Profit mailers and businesses do get discounts for the business they bring to the Postal Service.

The mailers need to remember that over the years all the work that mailers do now, use to belong to postal workers. That work was work that gave living wage jobs with benefits to the communities around this country. Communities benefit from the living wage jobs that the Postal Service provides. Many of those jobs are gone and more jobs are under attack by the USPS. Large mailers have been given an opportunity to make a business for themselves and I believe the USPS has been very good to mailers. Without the USPS they would have been forced to do business with our competitors that do charge 3-5 times more than the discounts they now receive from the USPS.

In conclusion, I am asking the Postal Regulatory Commission especially Mr. Hammond and Ms. Langley to look at expanding the 2% CAP during the five-year period. Don't be swayed by big business corporations and mailers and worry that they won't survive. They have made large sums of revenue off the backs of postal workers and it has taken away living wage jobs from many American people in many communities, including our veterans and people with disabilities.

I as a Postal Worker know that there are many ways we can still make a difference for the American people, as well as work with the large mailers and our non-profit groups, and businesses, but we need not just survive, we need to expand for the

good of our country, and the good of businesses and mailers. It can only happen with investment money from the sale of our products and services.

It is in the best interest of all to give the USPS a chance to prove in the next five years with ample investment revenue (more than just a 2% CAP) that we can all work together to help businesses, mailers, and non-profits. Allow the Postal Service to make a difference, by becoming a better service for all America.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Szeredy/ dszeredy@aol.com
A forty-year Postal Worker

25 Logan Circle NW
Washington, DC 20005